

September 12, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Outreach & Access Updates: USHE Conference for Counselors and School Administrators and the Expect the Great Conference for Students

USHE Conference for Counselors and School Administrators, September 14, 2018

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Utah System of Higher Education's Conference for Counselors and School Administrators. The conference will be held September 14 at the Provo Marriott Hotel with the theme "College: Together We Can!" The keynote addresses will be given by Assistant Commissioner Dr. Julie Hartley and by inspirational speaker Justin Jones-Fosu. The conference is organized by Richard Gonzalez in the commissioner's Office of Outreach and Access.

The conference is a free training event for high school, junior high, and elementary school counselors and administrators, who can earn Utah State Board of Education recognized professional development credits for attending. The conference provides attendees with tools to create a college-going culture in their schools, to support college preparation, and to increase students' access to higher education. Participants can choose from 30 sessions with multiple topics, including training on college financial aid, the Board of Regents' recommended high school curriculum (Regents' Scholarship), the Three Rs of College Mental Health, effective counseling for students from underrepresented populations, and tools for successful career and college readiness meetings with students and parents. Two special sessions will provide training for counselors of schools participating in the Board of Regents' StepUp Schools Initiative.

Conference attendance has more than tripled in the ten years since it was first organized. This year's enrollment is capped at 665 attendees and all slots were filled by the end of August.

Expect the Great Conference, October 5-6 2018

The Expect the Great Conference is a free college and career awareness event for African, African-American, and black students and their families. The conference also includes an overnight retreat for Black Student Association Officers from across the state and a career and college fair. Aimed at increasing college participation, retention, and graduation, it was initiated eight years ago by former Board of Regents Vice-Chair France A. Davis.

Salt Lake Community College will host the 2018 conference on October 5 and 6.

Presidents of the USHE institutions each provide \$3,000 of financial support for the conference and assign staff members to work collaboratively as a planning team. The conference also receives leadership support through Lais Martinez of the office of Outreach and Access as well as \$4,000 of funding. This year's committee chairs are Dr. Roderick Land and Rita Branch-Davis of Salt Lake Community College.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no formal action by the Board is required.

---

David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/JH